

Liturgy

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday, Year B

GATHERING

The earth is the LORD's and all it contains,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.**

We extol You, our God and King;
and we will bless Your name forever and ever.

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable!**

One generation shall praise Your works to another;
they declare Your mighty acts
and the splendor of Your majesty.

**All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,
and all Your saints shall bless You.**

The LORD has made known His salvation
and revealed His righteousness
in the sight of the nations.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and Your dominion endures
throughout all generations.**

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 24, 98, 145

Today, we join our voices with all the saints and angels
and the whole of creation.

Come, let us worship the Lord, our God!

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels in the height.
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed.
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, His power proclaim.
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify His Name.

LECTIONARY for the twenty-third
Sunday after Pentecost, Year B:

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

All Saints is one of the “special days,” such as Trinity Sunday or Holy Cross, that are interspersed throughout this long season after the Day of Pentecost. These special days are occasions for the Church to focus on and celebrate a particular doctrine, mission, or ethic, and to highlight its integral place within the whole story of God.

When we think of the term saint, the first image that presents itself is often a very formal one: someone whose life exemplified power and holiness, often one who was martyred for the faith, or who was elevated to the title of Saint Such-and-Such after death. Or we might think in much more earthly terms, along the lines of saying someone is “such a saint!” for having done something unusually generous and unselfish. But when we find saints mentioned in the Bible—and we find this often—it is always with the understanding that these “holy ones” are those whose lives are set apart for relationship with God and dedicated wholly to His purposes. In this biblical understanding, saints—both those who have gone before and those still living—are examples of faithful and triumphant believers, whose lives are a model of faithfully walking through life on this earth with eyes fixed on Jesus. Their lives and their stories challenge us to respond to the same high calling in our own lives.

All Saints Day is November 1, but in many Western Christian traditions it is observed on the first Sunday in November or, as here, in the last few days of October. It's an occasion to contemplate the “great cloud of witnesses” that surrounds us (Heb. 12:1). It's a day that reminds us that we are joined with the Church universal across time and across the globe, all part of God's Story. And it's a time to remember and thankfully honor all the saints, the “faithful witnesses,” God has placed in our lives, who have inspired us, influenced us, taught us,

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
We would bow before Thy throne.
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

Worship, honor, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
In glad homage bend the knee.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2012. Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.
Text: Thomas Coram (vs. 1 and 2); Edward Osler (vs. 3).
Hymn tune: HOLY MANNA (William Moore, *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825)

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Doxology)

Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
everlasting is Thy reign.

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Words: Attrib. to Ignaz Franz, 1774; based on the ancient hymn *Te Deum*, fourth century;
transl. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853. Hymn tune: GROSSER GOTT.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

You are God; we praise You.
You are the Lord; we acclaim You.
You are the Eternal Father; all creation worships You.
To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praises you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;
Father of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free
You did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

Leader:

Come then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”), 4th century.
Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.

and formed us.

Music for this setting of Praise the Lord! Ye Heav'ns, Adore Him is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet. The tune is the familiar HOLY MANNA, perhaps better known with the lyrics “Brethren, we have met to worship ...” This setting is a joyous expression of praise as “the faithful exult in glory” (Psalm 149).

Here's the link to the Music Room:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/praise-lord-ye-heavns-adore-him>

Music for Ellen's setting of Holy God, We Praise Thy Name is available in the Hymn Settings section of the music catalog as a lead sheet. (It is also available as vocal line with piano accompaniment and as a choral arrangement by request.) This hymn is one whose verses may be chosen and used as doxologies in a variety of contexts within the worship service..

You'll find it here:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/holy-god-we-praise-thy-name>

I have crafted this antiphonal Profession of Faith from the ancient hymn, Te Deum laudamus, attributed to the fourth-century church fathers Ambrose and Augustine. With its acclamation of praise from all creation to the triune God, it is particularly fitting for All Saints Sunday.

This spoken Profession of Faith also leads, both powerfully and lovingly, into a time of confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD,
and who may stand in His holy place?
*Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
whose walk is blameless, who do what is righteous,
who speak the truth from their hearts,
who do no wrong to a neighbor,
who honor those who fear the LORD.*
They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation;
they will never be shaken.

– from Psalms 15 and 24

Most merciful God, **We confess to You and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

[Silence]

Have mercy on us. **Accept our repentance,
and accomplish in us the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

CCLI Song #3204324 ©1989 Celebration. Betty Carr Pulkingham

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
*The LORD is near to all who call on Him,
to all who call on Him in truth.*
The LORD fulfills the desire of those who fear Him;
He also hears their cry, and saves them.
The LORD preserves all who love Him.
**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless His holy name
forever and ever.**

– from Psalm 145:8, 18-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Glory Be To God

To You we bring our hymn of praise: Glory be to God.
Hearts and hands together raised: Glory be to God.
Who spoke before the dawn of time: Glory be to God.
Veil of darkness torn by light: Glory be to God.

And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

You purchased captives for Your saints: Glory be to God.
And opened wide the kingdom gates: Glory be to God.
You overcame the sting of death: Glory be to God.
And clothed us in Christ's righteousness: Glory be to God.

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

Glory, glory, glory, glory forever and ever.
(repeat)

Father, Spirit, risen Son: Glory be to God.
Who was, and is, and is to come: Glory be to God.
And with unceasing voice all heaven sings: "Glory be to God!"
Th'anthem of the Lord's redeemed: "Glory be to God!"

And all Your children cry with loud acclaim: "Glory be to God!"
Sing, O Church, Your sweet refrain: "Glory be to God!"

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Matt Maher, Kelly Minter, Stuart Townend.

THE WORD

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)

With all of the saints and angels,
We gather before You.
Our hearts filled with thankfulness,
We lift up Your holy Name.
With all who have gone before us,
We feast at Your table.
We eat of Your body and
Drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You
Lamb of God, slain for our sins.
(Repeat)

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Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,
I will sing holy, holy.
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:
I will sing holy, holy

Chorus:

I will praise the Lamb of God who sits upon the throne.
I will worship Him, and give the praise to Him alone.
He who was and is and is to come:
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,
And they sing holy, holy.
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:
And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy; holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

Eric Wyse's setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available at Score Exchange (<https://www.scoreexchange.com/scores/19379.html>)

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Public Domain. Text: William W. How, 1864. Hymn tune: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughn Williams.

Benediction:

Beloved, we – the people of God – go forth in joy and with thankful hearts,
because God Himself, the God of all grace and Creator of all things,
He who is from eternity to eternity, is pleased to make His dwelling among us
and to call us His own. **Amen.**

Now may the grace, power, and love of the God of the universe propel us out
into the world to love and serve the Lord, bearing witness to His cosmic story
as the center of our lives.

Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“The church, although scattered throughout the whole world, yet, as if occupying one house, having received . . . this faith in Jesus, carefully preserves it. She believes these points of doctrine just as if she had one soul and one heart, and she proclaims them, teaches them, and hands them down with perfect harmony as if she possessed only one mouth. For although the languages of the world differ, the significance of the faith is one and the same. For the churches which have been planted in Germany do not believe or hand down anything different, nor do those in Spain, nor those in France, nor those in the East, nor those in Egypt, nor those in Libya, nor those which have been established in the central regions of the world. But like the sun, that creature of God, which is one and the same throughout the whole world, so also the preaching of the truth shines everywhere and enlightens all who are willing to come to a knowledge of the truth. Neither will any of the leaders in the churches, however highly gifted they may be in eloquence, teach doctrines different from these (for no one is greater than the Master). Nor, on the other hand, will one who lacks power of expression inflict injury on the tradition. For the faith is always one and the same. One who is able to speak about it at great length does not add to it; neither does one who can only say a little diminish it.” – Irenaeus

Lectionary for next week: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146;
Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.

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URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>

We sing three verses of this traditional, triumphant hymn written for All Saints Day. However many verses you sing, it is a wonderful way to send forth God's people, with a doxology of praise and hope, into the world to love and serve the Lord.